[*English*]

**Hire–Purchase act**

3837. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enforce the Hire–Purchase Act, 1972;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government intends to enforce the Hire–Purchase Act, 1972 after carrying out certain amendments. An amending Bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha since 1989. However in view of the representations received, certain clauses in the Amending Bill are being re–examined by the Government.

**Prosecution for Evasion of Excise Duty**

3838. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of excise duty evasion of above rupees 500 crores in respect of which decision to launch prosecution was taken during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of cases, out of these, in respect of which the decision has not been implemented;

(c) the amount involved in each of the cases referred to in part (b) above.

(d) the reasons for not launching the prosecution in these cases; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No cases was adjudicated in any of the last 3 years finding Central Excise duty evasion of Rs. 500 crores or more and requiring consideration of prosecution.

(b) to (e). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Retirement age of High Court Judges**

3839. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of cases are pending in various High Courts for the past so many years;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the age of retirement of High Court Judges upto 55 years for the speedy disposal of cases and to avoid the time gap between the retirement of the High court Judges and the filing up of vacancies; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to increase the age of retirement of High Court Judges which is presently 62 years. How